

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Research Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

December 17, 1993

Attendees

Julie Anderson, Monterey Bay NMS, RAC Executive Coordinator
George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG (Guest Attendee)
Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs, RAC Chairman
Laura Ehret, Naval Postgraduate School
Gary Greene, USGS
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Terry Jackson, Manager, Monterey Bay NMS
Deborah Johnston, CA Dept of Fish and Game
Aaron King, Monterey Bay NMS (Guest Attendee)
Max Puckett (for Mark Stephenson), CDFG/Marine Pollution Studies Lab
Bruce Robison, MBARI
Jan Roletto, GFNMS
Jim Rote, NOAA/OCRM
Bill Schramm, NOAA/OAB
Frank Schwing, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Mary Silver, UCSC
Rick Starr, Sea Grant Extension Program
Les Strnad, California Coastal Commission
Mary Yoklavich, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG

Members Not In Attendance:

Peter Brewer
Herbert Curl
Andrew DeVogelaere
Maxwell Eldridge
David Evans
Tami Grove
Chris Harrold
Dennis Powers
Rachael Saunders
Helen Golde
Francesca Cava
Kathryn Sullivan
Paul Wild

Greg Cailliet, RAC Chair, introduced the meeting.

Minutes from the November 19 meeting were approved.

The Research Plan with the Table of Contents is available, and copies can be obtained from the Sanctuary office.

Gary Sharp will invite someone to the RAC to represent the San Luis Obispo area.

Integrated Coastal Management (Julie):

The Integrated Coastal Management process will be used to prepare a Water Quality Protection Plan for the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary. The Core Group, with representatives from state, local, and federal government, non-profits, and user groups, is planning a Water Quality workshop on January 25-27, 1994. A variety of water quality experts identified by the Core group are being invited to participate. Information will be collected from these experts to formulate water quality priorities, set water quality targets, and develop implementation strategies. Members of the RAC that will be invited to participate in the experts workshop include Chris Harrold, Greg Cailliet, Mark Stephenson, Frank Schwing, and Mary Yoklavich. Rick Starr, Deborah Johnston, Terry Jackson, Tami Grove and Jim Rote are Core Group members. RAC members are invited to participate, and should contact Terry Jackson if interested.

Research Symposium (Rick):

Flyers advertising the research symposium on February 5 have been distributed. The Symposium will take place at the Glasgow Auditorium of the NPGS, with an adjacent room for posters. A map is enclosed. RAC members are requested to encourage scientists within their institutions to submit posters. January 5 is the deadline for submitting abstracts. RAC decided that next year's symposium will be held in conjunction with the Western Society of Naturalists conference in December.

LMER Proposal (Jim Rote):

LMER funding levels are approximately \$500,000/year for 6 years. Jim received Packard Foundation seed money to begin developing the LMER proposal for the Monterey Bay area; however, area researchers have decided to hold off for this year. Instead, the Packard funding will be put toward workshop opportunities. Jim would like input on the direction these workshops should take. Les suggested that the Coastal Commission cumulative impacts project could be coordinated with the proposed workshops. Les and Jim will work together on this.

Research Permits (Terry):

New SRD guidelines on research permits were distributed. Terry would like comments on the draft, particularly the combined permits section. This will be discussed at the next RAC meeting, but anyone is invited to send written comments to Terry. Comments must be received by January 10.

Les Strnad suggested that the impact of the activity must be considered in the Sanctuary permitting process. A review process requiring different levels of effort should be devised for different activities. A RAC subcommittee was formed to develop guidelines to be discussed at the next RAC meeting for this "differential review" process. The subcommittee will meet in January, and includes Les, Terry, Jim Harvey, Deborah Johnston and Jan Roletto.

Bill Schramm suggested that the MBNMS should consider acceptance of other government permits to avoid duplication of effort.

Research Database (Julie):

At the request of the RAC, MBNMS will set up a research database if the RAC thinks it would still be useful. It would be accessible to RAC members and others on the computer (computer program to be decided later - database must be accessible and acceptable to local researchers). Its purpose is to aid researchers in keeping abreast of current projects in the Monterey Bay area.

Attached are proposed "fields" that the database could encompass. As currently envisioned, this database will be both a research directory and a summary of project information. The RAC decided that a bibliographic database would be a

sizable undertaking that is not currently feasible, and may be a duplication of effort. When you review the proposed fields, please consider the following questions: Are any fields missing? What form should project descriptions take (abstract, a few sentences)? How should initial database information be collected (another survey?)? How far back should project information go? How will the database be updated?

Please bring your comments to the next RAC meeting.

The Mitchell Bill (see 11/19 meeting minutes) is funding the Southwest Regional Research Board (extending from Pt. Reyes to Mexico) to develop a research plan. This information may be a good starting place for our database. Duplication of effort should be avoided.

I3LA (electronic library - Bruce Gritton, MBARI):

Presentation of proposed electronic library and communications network, some of which might be centered at a new facility at Fort Ord, such as the new CA State University at Monterey Bay. Bruce handed out a large information packet on this project. Please contact him if you would like a copy or further information (408/647-3733).

NSF Ocean Plan (Bruce Robison):

NSF has developed large-scale ocean plans that have dominated the ocean sciences planning effort. An NSF planning committee is working on the next iteration of the strategic planning document. Bruce would like community input and consensus on the draft, which has a mid-1994 completion date. Bruce will send Terry copies, and the RAC will make comments and discuss the draft at a future RAC meeting.

E-Mail Options (Greg):

RAC discussed which E-mail program it would like to use. After a detailed discussion, the RAC decided that Econet will be used at least in the short-term. This system can be re-evaluated on an annual basis. On Econet, a bulletin board will be developed as a vehicle of communication among RAC members. A subcommittee on databases was formed, and includes Aaron King, Gary Sharp, Rick Starr, Bruce Gritton, Gary Greene, and Max Puckett. Aaron will contact subcommittee members to set up a meeting date.

Establishment of RAC Technical Advisory Committee (Greg):

RAC decided that rather than setting up a separate TAC, subcommittees should form whenever an issue needs further discussion. Subcommittees will be formed on a volunteer basis.

Letter of Commendation for Helen Golde (Jim Rote):

RAC decided that Helen's and Terry's efforts on the Research Plan should be acknowledged. Greg and Jim will write the letter, and Greg will sign for the RAC.

Sanctuary Funds for Research Projects (Terry):

No dedicated funds for research are available in FY94 except for the site characterization funding. Funds may be available in FY95. At that time, a RAC subcommittee could be involved in determining which proposals should be funded. Presently, research proposals are coming in to the Sanctuary at random.

CDF&G Big Creek Meeting (Mary):

As of January 1, 1994, four areas are being designated as research reserves, with research being the only allowed activity. The Big Creek site, 2 square miles located off Big Creek in Big Sur, is the only site in the Sanctuary. One million dollars will probably be designated to be used within all of the four reserves. Fisheries enhancement is a research priority. An advisory board is being set up, and the RAC may be asked to review research proposals.

Site Characterization (Greg):

See attached letter.

Special Note: Shortly after the RAC meeting ended, Julie Anderson informed Terry Jackson that she will be leaving the Sanctuary program at the end of December, 1993. Terry will be consulting with Washington on how Julie's position will be filled. In the interim, Julie's Research Coordinator functions will be performed by Aaron King, the Program Specialist for the MBNMS. Julie's other main function, involving the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) program, will be performed by Pat Cotter, an EPA water quality specialist that works part-time for the MBNMS.

NEXT RAC MEETING: Friday, February 11, 8:30-12, in the Ocean View Conference Room (East) of the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

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